

## OPINION 886

**PURPURA BRUGUIÈRE AND MURICANTHUS SWAINSON  
(GASTROPODA): DESIGNATIONS OF TYPE-SPECIES UNDER  
THE PLENARY POWERS WITH GRANT OF PRECEDENCE TO  
THAIDIDAE OVER PURPURIDAE**

**RULING.**—(1) Under the plenary powers:

- (a) all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Purpura* Bruguière, 1789, made prior to the present Ruling, are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Buccinum persicum* Linnaeus, 1758, is hereby designated to be the type of that genus;
- (b) all designations of type-species for the nominal genus *Muricanthus* Swainson, 1840, made prior to the present Ruling, are hereby set aside and the nominal species *Murex radix* Gmelin, [1791], is hereby designated to be the type of that genus;
- (c) it is hereby directed that the family-group name THAIDIDAE Suter, 1913, is to be given precedence over PURPURIDAE Broderip, 1839, by any zoologist who considers *Thais* [Röding] and *Purpura* Bruguière to belong to the same family-group taxon;
- (d) the following names are hereby suppressed for the purposes of the Law of Priority but not for those of the Law of Homonymy:
  - (i) the family-group names PURPURACEA Menke, 1828, and PURPURINAE Swainson, 1840;
  - (ii) the generic name *Tritonalia* Fleming, 1828.

(2) The following generic names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *Purpura* Bruguière, 1789 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(a) above, *Buccinum persicum* Linnaeus, 1758 (Name No. 1843);
- (b) *Ocenebra* Gray, 1847 (gender : feminine), type-species, by monotypy, *Murex erinaceus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Name No. 1844);
- (c) *Muricanthus* Swainson, 1840 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation under the plenary powers in (1)(b) above, *Murex radix* Gmelin [1791] (Name No. 1845);
- (d) *Charonia* Gistl [1847], (gender : feminine), type-species, by original designation, *Murex tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758 (Name No. 1846);
- (e) *Thais* [Röding], 1798 (gender : feminine), type-species, by designation by Iredale, 1915, *Murex fucus* Gmelin, 1791 (Name No. 1847).

(3) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *persicum* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Buccinum persicum* (type-species of *Purpura* Bruguière, 1789) (Name No. 2307);
- (b) *erinaceus* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Murex erinaceus* (type-species of *Ocenebra* Gray, 1847) (Name No. 2308);

- (c) *radix* Gmelin, [1791], as published in the binomen *Murex radix* (type-species of *Muricanthus* Swainson, 1840) (Name No. 2309);
- (d) *tritonis* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Murex tritonis* (type-species of *Charonia* Gistl [1847]) (Name No. 2310);
- (e) *nodosa* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the binomen *Nerita nodosa* (Name No. 2311).

(4) The following generic names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified;

- (a) *Tritonalia* Fleming, 1828 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(d) above) (Name No. 1950);
- (b) *Triton* Montfort, 1810 (a junior homonym of *Triton* Linnaeus, 1758) (Name No. 1951);
- (c) *Centronotus* Swainson, 1833 (a junior homonym of *Centronotus* Schneider, 1801) (Name No. 1952).

(5) The following specific names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Specific Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) *pictum* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Haustrum pictum* (rejected as a *nomen oblitum*) (Name No. 908);
- (b) *dentex* Perry, 1811, as published in the binomen *Haustrum dentex* (rejected as a *nomen oblitum*) (Name No. 909).

(6) The following family-group names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) THAIDIDAE (correction of *Thaisidae*) Suter, 1913 (type-genus *Thais* [Röding], 1798) (by direction under the plenary powers to be given precedence over PURPURIDAE Broderip, 1839, by any zoologist who considers *Thais* and *Purpura* to belong to the same family-group taxon) (Name No. 439);
- (b) PURPURIDAE Broderip, 1839 (type-genus *Purpura* Bruguière, 1789) (by direction under the plenary powers not to be given precedence over THAIDIDAE Suter, 1913) (Name No. 440).

(7) The following family-group names are hereby placed on the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Family-Group Names in Zoology with the Name Numbers specified:

- (a) PURPURACEA Menke, 1828 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(d) above) (Name No. 444);
- (b) PURPURINAE Swainson, 1840 (as suppressed under the plenary powers in (1)(d) above) (Name No. 445).

#### HISTORY OF THE CASE (Z.N.(S.) 1621)

The present case was submitted to the Office of the Commission by Prof. Myra Keen in December 1963. Prof. Keen's application was sent to the printer on 28 February 1964 and was published on 7 August 1964 in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 235-239. Public notice of the possible use of the plenary powers in the present case was given in the same part of the *Bulletin* as well as to the other

prescribed serial publications (Constitution Art. 12b; *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 184) and to four specialist serials.

Comments supporting the application were received from the Northern California Malacozoological Club (M. D. Richart), Dr. A. G. Smith, Dr. C. O. van Regteren Altena and Dr. J. L. Bailey Jr. (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 22 : 136) the last two, however, expressing preference for the use of the senior name *Purpuridae* Broderip, 1839, to the junior name *Thaididae* Suter, 1913.

#### DECISION OF THE COMMISSION

On 3 May 1966 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three-Month Rule on Voting Paper (66)26 either for or against the proposals set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 238–239. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 3 August 1966 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—twenty-two (22), received in the following order: China,\* Simpson,\* Mayr, Holthuis,\* Bonnet, Boschma,\* Brinck,\* Vokes, Lemche,\* Uchida, Jaczewski, Tortonese, Sabrosky,† do Amaral,\* Mertens, Forest, Alvarado, Munroe, Ride,† Stoll, Kraus,\* Evans.

Negative votes—none (0).

Voting papers not returned—three (3): Binder, Hubbs, Obruchev.

In returning their Voting Papers, Commissioners Sabrosky and Ride made the following comments:

*Dr. C. W. Sabrosky* (1.vii.66.): "The divided vote illustrates the desirability of making separate cases of distinct problems, some of which involve quite different points. I believe that the case of *Purpura* should be dealt with separately and should be resubmitted to the Commission, with further evidence and clarification of the proposal, or submission of alternate proposals if needed. I formally ask reconsideration of the case.

"The question of family name *Purpuridae* vs. *Thaididae* is a critical one, but here the authors submit diametrically opposed statements. Keen, the applicant (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 21 : 236, ii) states that *Thaididae* 'has been almost universally applied ever since' its first use in 1913. Baily, on the other hand (*ibid.* 22 : 136), says that 'the name *Purpuridae* is the commonly accepted name. The name *Thaididae* has never come into general usage' [both italics mine]. Both statements are unsupported by evidence. Which is correct? How can the Commission reach a just decision unless the answer is provided?

"Keen has stated (*ibid.* 22 : 137, first paragraph) that her alternative (a) is the best choice 'provided [her italics] that at the same time all family-group names based on *Purpura* were suppressed.' The inference is that if her application for approval of *Thaididae* were to be rejected, and *Purpuridae* approved instead as favoured by two of the commenters (*ibid.* 22 : 136), then her alternative (a) would not be the best choice.

"Should not the Commission be given an appropriate statement, with choices, after the evidence for usage has been furnished?"

\* These Commissioners preferred to retain *PURPURIDAE* as the valid family-group name

† Commissioners Sabrosky and Ride asked for further information on usage of *THAIDIDAE* and *PURPURIDAE* before voting on that part of the application

Dr. W. D. L. Ride (28.vii.66): "I am unable to vote for (1)(c), (6), (7) of the proposals. We have two opposing authoritative statements and no advice from the Secretary as to which is correct.

"Dr. Keen, *Bull.* 21 : 236, 'Thaididae . . . almost universally applied ever since.'

"Dr. Bailey, *Bull.* 22 : 136, 'Thaididae has never come into general usage.' "

In reply to the requests for more information on the usage of the family-group names, Dr. Keen supplied the following list, which was compiled subject to the following restrictions:

- (a) published after 1950;
- (b) publication uninfluenced by her own convictions;
- (c) publication by authors who have done more than casual taxonomic work.

*Using names based on Thais*: Durham 1950, Morris 1952, Woodring 1959, Rippingale & McMichael 1961, Abbot 1962, Powell 1962.

*Using names based on Purpura*: Abbot 1959, Warmke & Abbot 1961.

*Using Muricidae undivided*: Abbot 1960, Taylor & Sohn 1962, Habe 1964.

A second vote was therefore taken on Voting Paper (67)53 in order to decide the question of the Family-group names alone. Included with this voting paper was Dr. Keen's list as given above. On 2 January 1968 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the Three Month Rule on Voting Paper (67)53 either for or against the proposal relating to the family-group names as set out in *Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 21 : 238-239. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 2 April 1968 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative votes—sixteen (16), received in the following order: Mayr, China, Vokes, Jaczewski, do Amaral, Binder, Bonnet, Obruchev, Lemche, Sabrosky, Munroe, Uchida, Tortonese, Ride, Mertens, Alvarado.

Negative votes—four (4): Holthuis, Boschma, Simpson, Brinck.

Commissioners Kraus and Forest returned late affirmative votes.

However, the following objection was raised by Dr. Holthuis who voted against the proposal:

"It has already been agreed in an earlier vote (V.P. (1966)26) to place the generic name *Purpura* on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, and any name placed on that List must have the possibility of becoming that of the type-genus of a family, since an author wishing to make (in this case *Purpura*) the type of a monotypic family would have no alternative name to use."

Consequently on 10 February 1969 the Members of the Commission were invited to vote under the One-Month Rule on Voting Paper (O.M.) 69(4) to correct the action taken on Voting Paper (67)53 by voting either for or against the proposal to grant precedence to THAIDIDAE over PURPURIDAE and the placing of both names on the Official List with the annotation that authors synonymising the two should give THAIDIDAE precedence over PURPURIDAE. At the close of the prescribed voting period on 10 March 1969 the state of the voting was as follows:

Affirmative Votes—twenty (20), received in the following order: China, Holthuis, Forest, Simpson, Vokes, Alvarado, Tortonese, Jaczewski, Lemche, Ride, Eisenmann, Melville, Obruchev, Bonnet, Binder, Mertens, Kraus, Brinck, Sabrosky, Mayr.

Negative votes—none (0).

Voting Papers not returned—three (3): do Amaral, Evans, Munroe.  
Commissioners Starobogatov and Uchida returned late affirmative votes.

#### ORIGINAL REFERENCES

The following are the original references for names placed on the Official Lists and Indexes by the Ruling given in the present Opinion:

- Centronotus* Swainson, 1833, *Zool. Illustr.* (2) 3 : pl. 100  
*Charonia* Gistl, [1847], *Handb. Naturgesch.* : 559, 586  
*dentex*, *Haustrum*, Perry, 1811, *Conchology* : pl. 44  
*erinaceus*, *Murex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 743  
*Muricanthus* Swainson, 1840, *Treatise Malac.* : 296  
*nodosa*, *Nerita*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 777  
*Ocenebra* Gray, 1847, *Ann. Mag. nat. Hist.* 20 : 200  
*persicum*, *Purpura*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 738  
*pictum*, *Haustrum*, Perry, 1811, *Conchology* : pl. 44  
*Purpura* Bruguière, 1789, *Ency. Method. Text. Vers.* 1(1) : 15  
*PURPURACEA* Menke, 1828, *Synopsis meth. Moll.* : 34  
*PURPURIDAE* Broderip, 1839, *Penny cyclop.* 14 : 321  
*PURPURINAE* Swainson, 1840, *Treatise Malac.* : 71  
*radix*, *Murex*, Gmelin, [1791], in Linnaeus, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 13) 1 : 3527  
*THAIDIDAE* (correction of *THAISIDAE*) Suter, 1913, *Man. N.Z. Moll.* : 42  
*Thais* [Röding], 1798, *Mus. bolten.* : 54  
*Triton* Montfort, 1810, *Conch. Syst. Class. méth. Coquilles* 2 : 586  
*Tritonalia* Fleming, 1828, *Hist. Brit. Anim.* : corrigenda  
*tritonis*, *Murex*, Linnaeus, 1758, *Syst. Nat.* (ed. 10) 1 : 754

The following is the original reference for the designation of a type-species for a genus concerned in the present ruling:

For *Thais* [Röding], 1798 : Iredale, 1915, *Trans. N. Z. Inst.* 47 : 472

#### CERTIFICATE

We certify that the votes cast on Voting Papers (66)26, (67)53, and (O.M.) (69)4 were cast as set out above, that the proposals contained in Voting Papers (66)26 and (O.M.) (69)4 have been duly adopted under the plenary powers, and that the decision so taken, being the decision of the International Commission, is truly recorded in the present Opinion No. 886.

R. V. MELVILLE  
*Secretary*

W. E. CHINA  
*Assistant Secretary*

*International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*  
*London*  
*20 March 1969*